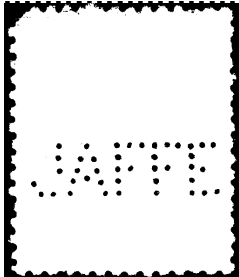
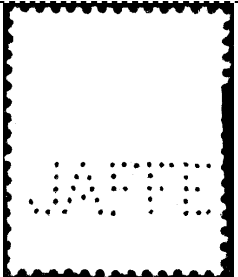
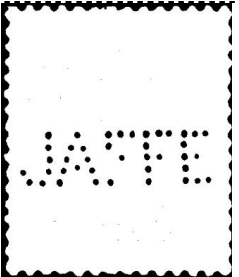
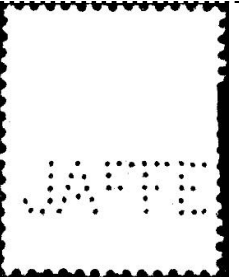


BROKEN PINS DETERMINE DIE CONFIGUTATION

Part 2 – 4 x 1 Dies

Maurice Harp

In the first part of this article in Bulletin 338 I covered 6 x 1 dies of which over 20 dies have been identified by inspection of pin breaks and the position of the stamp on the sheet. This article covers 4 x 1 dies – and so far only one die has been identified with this configuration – J0170.01M – JAFFE. The die was used Jaffe Bros. & Co. Ltd., Linen & Jute Merchants, 5 Donegall Square South, Belfast. The company also had offices in Dundee & Glasgow and the die has been found with Dundee and Belfast cancellations. As can be seen below there are a series of different pin breaks on this die.

			
Plates Reported	Plates Reported	Plates Reported	Plates Reported
170, 176, 189, 190, 198, 202, 207, 210, 214, 216	174, 187, 193, 194, 199, 200, 205, 210, 214	176, 198, 199, 205, 209, 216	205, 210, 214
Broken pin "J" in "D", "H" & "L" columns	Broken pin "F" in "A", "E" & "I" columns	Broken pins "F" in "A", "E" & "I" columns	Broken pin "F" in "A", "E" & "I" columns

Looking first at the pin break on the "J" which seems to have occurred around 1875 and lasted throughout the life of the die. The "J" break is found in columns "D", "H" and "L" i.e. the fourth position in the die. The chart over the page maps out the reported copies showing this break and as clearly can be seen, this substantiates the 4 x 1 layout for the die. The single pin break on the "F" seems to have occurred at around the same time in the "A", "E" and "I" i.e. the first position on the die. A second break in the "F" seems to have occurred very soon after. It appears that rather than send the die back to Sloper for repair a workman at the company decided to move the lone pin at the base of the "F" up to make a stronger "F" – and this seems to be the way the

die continued to be used. Presumably if as a company you owned a

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
A												
B				●				●				
C								●				
D												
E												
F								●				●
G												
H												●
I												
J				●				●				
K												
L								●				
M												
N				●								
O				●								●
P												●
Q												
R								●				●
S				●								
T												●

Broken Pin “J”

private machine and you were based at the other end of the country you would be in no great hurry to send the machine back for repair. The die continued to be used until about 1895 and doesn't seem to have been replaced. From my copies of this die I have no evidence that the die was ever repaired – maybe one of our members has.

The fact that twenty 6 x 1 dies have been identified via broken pins and only one 4 x 1 doesn't necessarily mean that 6 x 1 dies were the order of the day and that 4 x 1 dies are rare. It probably just means that the large users of perfins tended to use the larger dies and this means today there is plenty of material to study.

In the next part of this article I will cover 3 x 1 dies identified by the position of broken pins. Thanks also to **Roy Gault** for providing additional information for this piece.